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In the case of the unemployed and homeless dependents, the worst system prevails where free lodgings are furnished in police stations, in which all sorts and conditions of men are allowed to sleep in the same room. The author commends wayfarers' lodges, where food and bed are furnished in compensation for labor which the applicant can perform. The workhouse is also commended where the capable who are unwilling to work are sent. A system which should meet all the requirements demanded in the treatment of these classes must provide for "emergency relief, for ordinary conditions and for prevention."

Over one-third of the work is devoted to criminal sociology, or crime from the standpoint of social welfare. After considering the conditions of criminality, its manifestations, its treatment and the development of ideals regarding the proper attitude of society toward the criminal classes, the author advocates measures looking to a removal of the social causes of criminality. In this the work represents the modern attitude toward criminality. Among the social causes mentioned are defective economic conditions, the prevalence of standing armies and the custom of drinking intoxicants. The reader cannot close the book without wishing that more space had been devoted to an interpretation of the social causes of crime and less to the descriptive part. That this is really an undeveloped field is perhaps responsible for the little space devoted to it.

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The Social Problem. By J. A. HOBSON. Pp. xi, 295. Price, \$2.00. New York: James Potts & Co., 1901.

The confusion of thought in this book is shown in the summing up of the study of the theory of utility. To really understand the concrete utilities of a national income "we require to know (1) What the goods and services are (2) who will get the use of them (3) how far the actual consumers are capable of getting the highest use out of them."

The third question is largely insoluble. No method of statistics can discover and tabulate the facts required for any answer which would be available in scientific investigation. From the point of view of ethics, the last question is highly interesting, and if it could be answered with any degree of exactness, it would seem to demand an effort to see that the right persons secured the commodities so that only the highest use might result in the greatest good. Socialism is unable to invent a method by which commodities can be distributed in the exact measure of the wisdom and opportunities of the recipients. The discussions in this collection of essays are not without value,

because of the warnings with respect to the administration of charity and the contention as to the inefficiency of consumers' leagues.

The argument for socialism is based upon what is called the "natural" right of property. It is an infringement of these "rights" for an individual to have less or more than the "physical and moral stimulus to productivity." There should be neither want nor surplus. Bequest and inheritance are only "palliatives of social disease." The fallacy of this discussion, as in every plea for an artificial equality, is found in the fact that the highest productivity cannot be secured unless the producer has the stimulus of indefinite surplus. The inheritance of property has been, in by far the larger number of cases, of great advantage in every way. The social parasite is more conspicuous than prevalent. Were the stimulus of the family idea weakened by the elimination of the incentive to toil found in the effort to provide for posterity, economic conditions would at once suffer.

The argument against specialization in industry, that making production more efficient entails a direful "human cost," in the degradation of the workingman, is a statement that cannot be verified. Historically, workingmen were never so intelligent and capable as now. Theoretically, if the employment uses but a part of the man in earning a livelihood, there is a surplus of time and power for the larger circle of human interests.

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History of the Working Classes and of Industry in France Before 1789. By E. LEVASSEUR, Member of the Institut. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris: Rousseau, 1900.

Levasseur is an example of what perseverance will do in the development of genius. Forty years ago he won a prize in an academic competition; that essay was the beginning of his work as author. It formed the basis of the "History of the Working Classes and of Industry in France" as it now appears. In the interval he has published his "History of the Working Classes of France from 1789 to 1867," and a work on "The American Workman" in two short volumes, reduced to one in the Johns Hopkins translation. He has also given the world a number of volumes on Geography, Statistics, Education, Politics and Social Science—all valuable contributions.

Founded upon an almost encyclopædic knowledge of the facts of historic development, his new edition, or more properly speaking his new work on the French Working Classes, is destined to be the standard of reference for men in both economic and historical fields. It